

A STUDY OF S. WELLS WILLIAMS' EARLY LETTERS

S. W.ウィリアムズ初期書簡研究

—— 子息による転写とのテキスト比較を中心として ——

A STUDY OF S. WELLS WILLIAMS' EARLY LETTERS

—— IN COMPARISON WITH HIS SON'S TRANSCRIPTION ——

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エール大学図書館では、自筆原稿部門において、サミュエル・ウェルズ・ウィリアムズ（以下でSWWと省略する）の自筆書簡や日記などを中心とする膨大な資料「ウィリアムズ家文書コレクション」（M5 4 7）を所蔵している。父親の伝記をまとめ上げる際に、息子でエール大学の歴史学教授フレデリックが、もともと収集管理したものである。本稿ではこのフレデリックによる父親の自筆書簡が、どう削除されたり、追加・改変されたかについての糸口を探ろうと試みた。最初に第2章で、1889年版の翻訳と私自身の読みを仔細に比較したのち、第3章では、1833年前後の同じ時期に、伝記に省かれた未刊自筆書簡の8通について、判読した結果のテキストを初めて公表することで、コンマ・語句・文章・段落のみならず、書簡そのものの削除のされたことの意味を問い直してみたいと考えた。

Chapter 1 Early Autograph Letters of S. Wells Williams

In writing his father's biography, *The Life and Letters of Samuel Wells Williams* (1889)¹, Frederick W. Williams collected and compiled a large number of SWW correspondence which now forms the special collection of the Williams Family Papers (MS No. 547) at the Yale University Library². A biographical study necessitates us to focus on some critical moments in the life of our subject, whoever it may be. Particularly in the case of our subject here, one of such moments visited him in the early 1830s, when we find him attending a private institution for higher education in 1831, in the meanwhile in 1832 being proposed to work for the China mission, and finally on board the ship *Morrison*³ from New York to Canton in 1833. He made the decision to become a missionary printer in China at the age of 18 years, and his 19th birthday was celebrated on board the ship.

A number of scholars have explored the collection of SWW autograph letters at Yale. Among them Jonathan D. Spence can be one of the earliest and eminent explorers⁴, followed by De-min Tao of Kansai University in Japan⁵ and Gu Jun⁶ of Beijing University of Foreign Languages in China. As far as the transcription text of SWW correspondence is concerned, however, there has been produced almost nothing except what Frederick did in his biography. An increasing interest in SWW as printer, missionary, linguist, Sinologue and diplomat apparently cries for the annotated transcription text, either partial or in full scale, of SWW autograph letters and diaries. Simply because under the current circumstances we have no choice but either explore the original manuscripts on the spot or rely on the printed text of Frederick's transcription in his father's biography.

We must remember that Frederick made the transcription over 100 years ago, when "life and letters" used to be very popular in the Anglo-American publishing world. One remarkable example in the connection of SWW is *Memoirs of the Life and Labours of Robert Morrison* in two volumes,⁷ a compilation by his second wife of her late husband's correspondence. Many of then biographers were not aware of such a criterion of precision and completeness as can be seen in excellent modern biographies, like Michael Holroyd's *Bernard Shaw*⁸. Without waiting for Lu Xun's very interesting classification of biographies in his novel *The True Story of Ah Q*⁹, the Frederick's is an official biography¹⁰, and that

well-documented, academic, balanced, conscientious, consistent and readable. In spite of assigning such a praiseworthy judgment Frederick as an author is no exception, and made mistakes in more than one way¹¹. In the next chapter I am going to try a minute comparison between one autograph letter and its printed transcription by Frederick, and in the meantime refer to his other transcription. In the final chapter I am going to print my own transcription texts of those 8 autograph letters, belonging to the critical period, 1832-1833, which are not included in the Frederick's biography. Since SWW's handwriting is rather easy to recognize and read, it does not cost us such a hard and patient labour as in the case of his colleague, Elia C. Bridgman¹².

Chapter 2 A Frederick W. Williams' Transcription Text Compared with its Originals

The following in this chapter is one of those 19 early autograph letters belonging to the particular period between November 23, 1831 and November 6, 1833, which are preserved and classified by the Yale University Library, as the 9/9/80 Addition Box No.1. Most of them are so-called family letters, being addressed to S. Wells Williams' father (12 pieces), mother (2 pieces), parents (2 pieces) and sister (1 piece). The rest of them includes one letter to Anderson of the American Board and one letter to his engraver friend called Tibbs. We can see that the 19 letters were mailed at three different places: Rensselaer Institute, his school in Troy; Utica, his hometown; New York, his port of departure to China; Pacific Ocean, on board his ship *Morrison*; Canton, his destination. An abridged list of all the 19 letters, either printed in the biography or unpublished, is given as follows, the square-bracketed B and the numbers that follows it referring to the pages of the Biography. Those pieces which carry no indication of B signs nor page numbers are transcribed and printed by me here for the first time.

SWW-Father: 1831/11/23 [B33-34], SWW-Father: 1831/12/24 [B36], SWW-Father: 1832/01/21 [B36-38], SWW-Father: 1832/03/07, SWW-Father: 1832/04/23 [B39-40], SWW-Father: 1832/06/01, SWW-Father: 1832/06/18 [B41-43], SWW-Father: 1832/7/12 [B43],

SWW-American Board (Anderson): 1832/07/20 [B43-45], SWW-Father: 1832/10/29, SWW-Parents: 1833/04/02 [B48-49], SWW-Father: 1833/05/02, SWW-Mother: 1833/06/10 [B50], SWW-Parents: 1833/06/15 [B51], SWW-Friend (Tibbs): 1833/06/26, SWW-Sister (Sophia): 1833/07/04, SWW-Father: 1833/09/24 [B51-53], SWW-Father: 1833/11/06 [B64-65], SWW-Mother: 1833/11/13.

The following text is a complete transcription of SWW's letter to his father (William Williams), with editorial changes on the part of Frederick shown in the square brackets. Especially important to observe is the underlining in the text, that indicates his deletion: exclusion to start with a trifle like a comma and then involving a word, a phrase, a long passage and a whole letter.

SWW-Father: 1833/11/06 [B64-65]

Canton, November 6, 1833.

I have been here a week, and in that short time,¹³ have seen enough of idolatry,¹⁴ to call forth all the energies I have in their behalf.¹⁵ A city,¹⁶ which at all [a]¹⁷ reasonable calculation, must contain as many inhabitants as all the State of New York, having a great extent of [which has its enormous]¹⁸ influence in the empire, [Empire---]¹⁹ a city like this demands a deal of [Christian]²⁰ labor. Take a position at the gate of one of the streets, leading from thence into the suburbs, and the [The]²¹ tide of beings which flows through it, [any one of the city gates here]²² is like the deep current of a powerful river. To pass across it,²³ you must sail down a ways ["sail down a-ways"],²⁴ before you can reach the other side of a street six or eight feet wide. This flood is continual, and once to see it [once in it],²⁵ all scepticism vanishes concerning the population of China. And²⁶ to take [China. To take] a circuit through [thro']²⁷ one of these streets about eventide, and see the abominations practiced against the honor of Him who has commanded, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me," and not be affected with a deep sense of the depth to which this intellectual (compared with the rest of the east)²⁸ people has sunk, that man cannot be [is impossible to]²⁹ a warm Christian man. The number of incense sticks, burning in every shop, at every corner, on every door post and every threshold,³⁰ and indeed in every place, where room can

be found, is so great as to raise a cloud of smoke over the city, and almost to blind the eyes, when walking in the streets [abroad]³¹ at such times. And is not such a mass of fellow immortals entitled to deep commiseration? [commiseration, to] To large & [and] combined effort?³² They are an easy people to work upon,³³ where their prejudices and government do not interfere. By this I mean,³⁴ where government does not in a manner make the prejudices. Many of our usages a<re>³⁵ looked at much more favorably, are even beginning to be followed. Does not this show that the wall of separation is about to crumble. By this time, you will have read Gutzlaffs voyages, and that will show you more on this head.³⁶

Along with this letter, I have sent two tracts in Chinese, the smaller one containing Scripture extracts, the other a school book for girls. And what I want to direct the attention of the friends of the mission to in Utica, is the cheapness, with which these books can be manufactured. The small one can be furnished in any quantities, after the blocks are paid for, at *one cent* a [per] copy. This includes paper, silk, and ink, and many thousands of them have been distributed among the natives. It is a good object for the benevolence of the children of your Sunday schools to be exercised upon every scholar and send one of these heralds of salvation to an ignorant heathen and by the blessing on high, save an immortal soul, Mr. Stevens had a letter of sixpences, some 8 or 10 dollars, sent out by an infant girls' school, and how many the Sabbath schools in Utica sends. The large [other] can be furnished for about [at] a cent & [and] a half. It is [half, and is] of the same size as the Bible, which is in twenty-one volumes, of half an inch thickness, all these can be furnished for one dollar & five cents. [volumes, sold at one dollar and five cents.] Yes the whole word of God can be made in this language including blocks, & paper for this small sum. How many of this Books of Life will you send to these heathens.

I have sent these two, as a specimen of the cheapness, the quality and the manner of Chinese books. They [sic] They [These books the Chinese] receive willingly, and read them in all probabilities [appear to read]. To make these [them], natives are employed, [i] the first convert [(Leang Afa)] was made by reading the blocks he was cutting. While they are printing and cutting, they have a frequent opportunity of teaching the contents. He [Leang] is now engaged in making books as fast as proceed [he can], and has distributed many thousand of the

scriptures [many thousands]. A short time since, there was an examination of literary candidates in Canton, and more than 25,000 [twenty-five thousand] came to the examination. [came.] Leang Afa got some coolies to take his boxes into the hall, and there he dealt out the word of life as fast as he could handle them, to intelligent young men. This he did for three days together. When he did this, some eighteen months ago, he got bamboosed. [together, but when he repeated the attempt eighteen months later, he got bamboosed.] Thus the word is [Thus is the word] being put before their eyes, and they are [already] somewhat acquainted with its contents [with it] in this vicinity. Leang-Afa [Leang Afa] is a venerable looking [venerable-looking] man, about fifty years old. His [old; his] countenance expresses benevolence and [benevolence, and] at first view, you are prepossessed. Do what you please with these tracts in Utica, only don't publish them. I am well & all here are so. Give my remembrance to all, and may your prayers ascend for my usefulness & the advancement of God's kingdom.

Yours affectionately. S. Wells Williams.

[envelope: addressed to] William Williams, Utica, Oneida Co., N.Y.

I send you along with the books some nos. of the *Repository*. Let all that want read but for monthly, concert &c. I have sent some to Mrs. Aikin. And theirs to Mr. Frazurd and give him my receipts. I shall continue to send you one. If you come across any work on China in English or French, I should like it very much. Give my love to mother & the the letter enls.

Reading through the above-quoted transcription, with additional annotations and underlines, we may notice various ways of changing the original text on the part of our biographer. As for one of the minor changes, like a comma, we observe about 10 instances of their deletion. This change is permissible maybe, but since SWW appears to prefer an occasional break in a sentence, putting in a comma, for example, something is lost on account of comma-deletion. A word, a phrase, a sentence or even a passage is sometimes cut or changed by Frederick, who sounds like having tried to improve his father's writing. This is very hard to say Yes indeed or Oh No. The following transcription of six letters are made by

me just to prove that the SWW's writing style has its own natural flow, which, I am sure, is not so bad as it is.

We can notice different levels of Frederick's editorial modification, starting from such a minor change as deleting a comma to stepping on to paraphrase and choice of documents. To give an idea of minor or major changes in textual reading, a minute examination of the first passage should be enough, as shown in the notes.

Chapter 3 Transcription Texts of S. Wells Williams' Six Unpublished Early Letters

No. 1. [SWW-father: 1832/03/07]

Rensselaer School, March 7, 1832.

Your arrival at the school on Wednesday afternoon was an event that I had been long expecting. Although it was four days sooner than I had anticipated, yet it was so much the more pleasant. As you observed in your letter, that you found me apparently happy, I think as I can say, that I am very well contented as respects the school; only if the Professor was indeed a true and sincere professor of that heaven born religion which he disregards, I should be more pleased. But God is here, as He is every where, and I have every opportunity to hold endearing, and as I trust, sincere communication with that precious Saviour who is ever near. And there is no place or time that I so much long for as the sun when I am alone with God & the Bible.

When you are here, you will recollect that the Professor complained of a severe cold, and that perhaps he would be unable to return the next morning. Then the next morning came, he consented that three of the students, (Mr. Boyd, Hill & myself) should take a short excursion to Coeymans to settle a geological fact and collect all the petrifications we could find. As this time was the best we could have, on account of the delay attendant in printing his genealogical txt. Book, we stayed at the father's of one of the students, and were hospitably

entertained by him. Nothing could have been kinder than our treatment; all was so free, so open. Moreover, the exercise was good, after a winter's confinement, and add to that the advantage of such a tour, when entering the study of Geology, I, for one, am very well satisfied with spending 3/- for such a tramp. From our representations to the Prof., for we could bring hardly any specimens with us, he thinks that we have found several new species. His bill for tuition &c. to the beginning of the present season is as follows.

Board from Nov.23, to March 7. 15 weeks @\$2. 30.00

Tuition for four Sub-Terms \$2.62 1/2 10.50

Sundry incidentals, as use of instruments,

models, lecturing, etc. etc. \$1. 4.00

Surveying & Engineering, text book50

\$25

For postage, washing, wood &c. I have spent about \$15.- During the summer I shall need Lindley's Botany, the wholesale price of which is 16/. The price at Paker's is 19/-. Also that Map of the stars you so kindly promised me. I think, that if God spares my life & health, that I shall make considerable proficiency in the studies pursued here as Geology &c. I have been appointed a kind of helper in all things, one whose business is to see to [erased: all] every part.

The news of the wonderful dealings of God in Utica has given me cause to celebrate the goodness and long suffering of God, as exercised towards all who have been residents of that place, both Christians & sinners. Dwight, I do humbly hope & pray has in reality given himself away in an everlasting covenant. If my poor letter to him did any good, give God the whole glory, I shall improve your directions about writings to Thos., Leward & sister Sophia. Having arrived here but a short time ago, from Coeymans, & having had a walk of 25 miles in a comfortable rain & snow storm, I will say good night, dear father.

In affection's bonds / S. Wells Williams

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No. 2. [SWW-father: 1832/06/01]

Renss. Institute. June 1, 1832

Dear Father

I rec'd your kind letter of the 17th on the 27th and will now inform you that I have got the books, Gray's Chemist & Dve's Dictionary. They will be very serviceable to me during the course of Chemistry which we have just just commenced, and I would thank you very much for them. I got them at Parkers about a week since, and Wednesday I received a letter from Mr. Keeling informing me where they had been left. Does M^Hr. K. live in Albany? Or is he only on business.

If H. Ivson prefers answering letters by proxy, let him also, if the comparison is good, get married by proxy, as Bensparks did.

As the chemical course has begun, my funds have all been expended to Dana, in buying substances, and the dollar I got of [a few illegible words] had lot pay borrowed money. I think from from present appearance Nin got thro' the course for 10 dollars, but will try to do so for less. We purchase the substances in a lot & can procure them much cheaper. The number of students is ten at present, and three more are expected.

I have not yet rec'd the box of clothing, but it is expected in soon. I hope the numbers of the Soc. of U.K. were in, as I stand in need of them. I do not think that I suffer Madame Flora to be unattended, but her ladyship is very versatile & cap[ri]tious in movements, often compelling me to dance attendance at her toilette at the rate of nine or ten miles every day or two.

Yours affectionately / S. Wells Williams

No. 3. [SWW-father: 1832/07/03]

Rensselaer Institute, Troy, July 3, 1832

Dear Father

Your kind communications of 22nd and 28th ult. were duly rec'd here. The reason I did not immediately reply to the former, was on account of the uncertainty of affairs both in the city and at the school. When I received the latter, I had then determined to write that day; so I would not wish to have it supposed that I wished to keep you in any anxiety, but as soon as the certain truth of affairs could be known, to inform you immediately. From several suspicious cases of cholera morbus having occurred in this city lately, most of the physicians imagine that it is here in propeia persona. The cases that occurred, however, have been those who were beastly intemperate, and the poor and ragged. They terminated fatally in twelve or sixteen hours. Still the health of the city is said to be as good as usual, and I do not now think that the school will discontinue at present. I should think it would be preferable to continu e here till it became moMre decided at least.

With regard to the country thro' which the tours are taken, I have only to say, that they embrace every fact in geology & organized remains that is presented in this country of any utility; as well as many in engineering, botany, mineralogy & chemistry. The places where they are taken are to the Connecticut river, Helderburgh Mts., south of Albany, Carbondale coal beds and New Jersey marl bed of the clay deposit[e]. They comprise many interesting localities, well worthy of visiting, and I should wish to take them much, believing that they will be useful & instructive. They begin to take the journey, on the 12th of September, two weeks after commencement on the 29th of August. Those two weeks were allowed to prepare. The terms will close in six weeks from next Wednesday the 11th of this month, if the school

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continues. I should like to be at home much, but I think, as I said before, that this is the most profitable place for me. I am very well, and would take occasion to adore & bless our Heavenly Father for His fostering care over me in preserving my unprofitable life yet a little longer. Since I first came, I have not been sick at all; not missing a meal or an exercise. I imagine that it is as healthy here as at Utica.

S. Wells Williams

P.S. For what purpose would you wish me to go to New Haven this summer? Mrs .Haynes still continues in very feeble health. The \$3 came safe.

No. 4. [SWW-Father: 1832/10/29]

Utica, Oct. 29, 1832.

Dear Father

Your esteemed letter was rec'd a short time since, and I shall always prize such, and endeavour to follow this advice. I have been constantly at work in the office for the week past the week past, the amount of work being so much that the other hands could not accomplish it all. I have not, as yet, begun to study; one reason is the quantity of work in the office, the other, that I wish to have you see at home whether it will be best for me to study at Bartlett's or Kingsley's. I think that at Bartlett's I shall make the most progress, but Kingley's is nearer home. However, until after election, I cannot study at all; all the spare time that I have, I employ in arranging my plants after the natural method.

If you have any spare time, I should like to have you call at Pike's the optician, at the top of Wall St. near Broadway, and see how much he charges for microscopes in boxes. I should be pleased to earn enough to get one, to have the assistance of it in studying botany &c.

Dr. Gray at the High School, has one he paid 1/20 for a most elegant one for use.

Bible Class was very full yesterday. Sunday before last, there were five teachers away. Miss Brandish to be married this evening, and Miss Burchard has gone to Buffalo; two members gone from your class. The little folks are all well, and mind your grandmother in all things.

Yours affectionately, / S. Wells Williams

Are there any maps of the stars to be had?

No. 5. [SWW-Father: 1833/05/02]

New York, May 2, 1833.

Dear Father,

Having ascertained in Albany, that I could, together with my charges, come round by N.Y. & Providence, about as cheap and much easier than to go across, I address you from this place. Harriet & Cynthia are in good spirits & health. I have ascertained that the *Morrison* is to be in, perhaps in a week, perhaps in a month, and probably will not sail, under a month at the least. Mr. Olyphant has got my passport, but Winston says, he is not entirely determined to go to Canton. I shall go to Providence in the in the 5 o'clock boat Boston this P.M. In Albany, I purchased Ellis' Polynesian Researches of Little, and Carnes lives of eminent missionaries: Wiley says, you was looking Cuvier & Bigaloers Shedls, but did not purchase. I do not [know] whether to buy them or not, not knowing whether you procured them elsewhere or not. We missed Shepard at Saffords, fifteen minutes, he having gone to Waterford. Pray, dear Father, that I may have faith & grace, for I greatly need them.

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Yours affectionately / S. WellsWilliams

Love to all.

No. 6. [SWW-Friend (Tibbs): 1833/06/26]

Ship Morrison, Atlantic Ocean, Lat.34° W. Long 40° W. June, 26, 1833.

Friend Tibbs.

Whenever and wherever this letter of mine should happen to reach you, receive it as a token of remembrance. For your very acceptable letter of last winter, I should have returned you an answer: but I had not the time to write one, even as you were, where you begun to answer a previous one of mine. But, if our letters are unfrequent in point of time; they will be so much the more prized when received. At least, yours will be so, mine will, I hope, keep you in debt. There I am, rocking away on the blue ocean, even as you were once. I have said, My native land, good night, as you also did, and have seen nought but sky & water since. We have had pretty pleasant weather since we were out, but have also had more calms than agreeable. Yesterday, were almost stationary, and rolled & rocked in fine style. A flying fish also came aboard, and I saw the first gull I have yet seen: we have "Portuguese men of war," sufficient to stock a army and "Mother Cary's chicken" are not wanting.

All these serve to full up the sameness, and occasionally after a little, variety to the tedium of a sea voyage, especially of one so long as ours. But we have a plenty of books, and of all kinds, so that I am not at all wearisome. Our mess consists of the captain, three mates, the supercargo and two passengers: so you will perceive we are not crowded, neither are we at loss for a variety. I have *about* passed the ordeal of seasickness. I was some troubled and the day before also. First I had to become accustomed to the rolling of the ship by a

short, regular course, and then, when I was most well, I was taken on another tack, and forced to learn the pitching. Perhaps I may have a lesson again, when both become united. But patience is a good medicine, in such cases, and I am now nearly over it; for I soon found that any other medicine was of but little use. We have had no fishing yet, tho' I did try to catch 2 small rudder fish, but was unsuccessful: they would not be captured. All the big fellows of fish have as yet remained out of sight and hearing. So you will learn that we have quite still times, except.g. [*sic*/excepting] always when the wind blows. Three flying fish were all that we caught that flew aboard.

Saturday has come again, making two weeks I have been afloat. We have had a calm, for the last three days, and it continues yet, and has been quite warm. All the numirous [*sic*/numinous] sea polypi swarm on the surface, and make a considerable variety from their curious forms

We have not spoken any ships since the second day, but have seen several. The beauty of sunrise & sunset at sea, is almost worthy alone of a journey, to see. If you could do them justice in an engraving, I have no doubt you would be highly pleased. So rich, so splendidly colored and so evanescent: it is *really* beautiful. And I hear that they are more [*sic*] handsomer in the eastern seas.

For that card you engraved, I had no means of getting any to you respecting it except by letter, and I had no time to order. If I can find any thing in China, which I think you would be pleased with, you shall have some, as a reward to your taste in the designs, which, allow me to say, does you much credit, if your head continues to make such good ones, you ought not to want for customers. I should like to have a letter and anything else you are willing to send me, at least annually. If you got this in a twelve month, you will do well.

Yours truly, tho' far distant. / S. Wells Williams.

[an illegible sort sentence]

No. 7. [SWW: Sophia (sister): 1833/07/04]

Becalmed for 2 weeks in Ship Morrison, Atlantic Ocean, in Lat. 31° 56 N. , Long. 38°48 W.

July 4, 1833.

Dear Sister,

"Fourth of July has come!" methinks I can hear you say, "and to-day I shall not go to school; and we'll see all the sights, and have nuts & cakes in great plenty." How happy you will be, and how much you will enjoy yourself, I can well imagine, and to-day I shall be thinking of all the little folks at home, for it is a quiet, still place on a ship in a calm. A calm is when there is no wind, and the swell of the ocean makes the ship rock one side and then the other, as you can hardly stand up. And in the night, when the swell is very heavy, and comes on suddenly, first you know about it, you are sprawling on the floor, and the chairs are all tumbling about at a great rates. And if nobody gets hurt, we all laugh at the sight, and get into bed again. And when at meals, you will be sitting at table quietly, all so nice, and before you have time to hold on, you will slide along the cabin into one of the little bedrooms, leaving your dinner rather before you have eaten enough. It would be the same, if, while you were eating in the dining room, and without any hands, you were to be slidden through the hall into the drawing room, while at the same time, all the others were taking a slide, some with a cup of coffee, some with a plate and some without any things. Curious sort of folks they must be, you would say, that can't sit at table till they have done eating, and not slide away across the room in all ways, as if there was a snake on the table.

But I have forgot what I began to write about, telling such a long story about sliding away from table. By the time you will read this letter, you will have begun almost to think of next Fourth of July, so I will tell you what I should wish you to do on such a time. As you know why that is observed, you should be very thankful to our Heavenly Father for letting

you enjoy so many blessings, and not putting your existence in China or some other heathen country. Just suppose God had made you a little Chinese girl instead of a little American one. As soon as you were born, if you was [*sic*] allowed to live, (for in that country they don't consider it criminal to murder infants) you would leave your feet put into close bandages, and teeth dyed black as soon as they began to come. Your mother would pretty quick after this be looking out for some little boy, as a husband for you; this boy, however, you would never see, neither would you know who it was till married to him. As you grew up, you would be learned how to say prayers to dumb, paper & wood idols, and would also have to sit and make pictures or roll tea. You could not run out doors & play nor could you have any companions, without you had some sisters, for your brothers would live separate from you, as *you* would be all alone, nor could you go to school out of the house. Your father could be the only man you would see till you was married, for no other man is ever allowed to go into the women's apartments in the quarters. There would be no L. School, nor going to meeting, nor Sabbath day, for the only holiday they have, is one week about New Years. You could, as you became older, be instructed in cooking, (if you were not very rich,) and in learning by hearing, the prayers & forms of ceremony. No neighbors would come & see you, nor could you get a horse and carriage and take a ride, but would be carried on men's shoulders, shut up close in a palanquin. (You will find a picture of a palanquin in Calmet.) You could walk about a very little, your feet would get so tired, and perhaps then you would get a tumble or two. Now and then, you might hear a little news, but very seldom: no books, no tracts; no newspapers and, you see, and if you did, a very small chance if you knew how to read them. "O! I shouldn't like to live in China!" I can *almost* hear [a few missing words], and how thankful should you be that [a few missing words] do not. Pray to the little heathen girls in China, and when [you] have any money to spend, think of these little immortal souls, and send your money to give them the word of life. Would you not rather do this, than spend it for candy or toys, which you use up, and that is an end of them. Supposing you lay up all you get and when there is a chance offers, send it to them. Do you not think that you will have more pleasure, than if you had spent it? Try & see, and bless God that you have the opportunity. Begin early to do good, and soon it will become a habit, which will be of great advantage to you. Never throw away your little time idly nor your money uselessly, and you will have nothing

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to blame yourself for. And when any of your little playmates are going to spend their money as before, tell them how much it is to save and give it to the little heathen girls. Why you don't know how much good you may be the means of doing by beginning earlier. A dollar that you may send will buy a Chinese testament, and this will be for aq whole family, who, after have read it thro' would copy it and then send it to their neighbor, who would do the same. They would "teach it to their children, and it might be the means of the conversion of a family or lives of fifteen or twenty souls. Would you have throwing away your dollar, or would you be sorry you sent it to the Heathen? If it did any good you would know it in eternity if you did not in their world, and if you did it from a vague motive, God would reward you. I, about whom you bring to God a memo written them & your affectionate brother also.

S. Wells Williams

This letter is for you and Edward, and when you write an answer, you must have something to me: all that you have to write, must be done carefully, and not scribbled. See how carefully you can keep those, two bows I gave you, till I shall come back? And then I can see how much you care about me. Remember to set a good example before the younger children, for you are with them very much and have a great influence over them. Help mother all that you can, and learn at school all your lessons. And as you grow older, endeavor to grow more & more useful, that all may see that you are *indeed* a disciple of Jesus. Remember all of the counsels of the mother who is in glory, and let her example do you good. You do not know how soon you may be called to follow her, and if young, may you be ready, & if old, let not death find you unprepared: So that if I should never see you again the face of my dear sister on earth, I may know that she is in the path of the just and that it may be so, I shall always pray.

[letter sheet enveloped and addressed to:] Miss Sophia W. Williams, Utica, N.Y.

No. 8. [SWW-Mother: 1833/11/13]

Canton, Nov. 13, 1833.

Dear Mother

I hope you will not take it as at all implying any dislike to writing or any forgetfulness that I have not written to you before this. Indeed, since I have landed, my time has been as much occupied as I could wish. And therefore, I have now taken a spare moment, and have produced this.

Not having taken an inventory of my clothes, when I left home, which ought to have been done, an[d] in all future cases I hope will not fail to be done, I have now sent you one. It comprises all that I brought from Utica, and not any of those I have had made here. Thin, summer clothes can be procured here at prices that put our tailors to the blush, and they are much better adapted for summer wear here; but to wear the same in Latitude 43° N. would make one quite chilly. A whole suit from neck to foot can be made that will not weigh much different from a pound & a half, and be all good clothes, fit to wear, not made of gauze. The following list may be useful for reference, for consideration or for any other purposes, as the wardrobe that was made up for me was, I find, complete in all parts. To wit:

33 Cotton Shirts not including old ones nor those given to me

4 Line Shirts

3 Flannel Shirts

2 pair Flannel Drawer*

2 Flannel Wrappers*

*Without which I should have almost frozen on the passage, for the cold was very considerable, and the hail & snow we had increased it.

5 pair Thin Pantaloon, every piece of which was made so small that I could hardly wear them and if you had not sent some pieces which were left, would have in a measure useless

4 pair of Satinet Pantaloon

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1 Frock Coat

1 Straight bodied Coat. The black one that I had made a short time before I came away, fell to pieces during the passage, and is left aboard the ship.

1 Tustian Over All

1 Linen Over All or my old fireman's coat.

1 Velvet Vest.

18 pa. Cotton Stockings.

3 pair Woollen stockings. If you should ever be struck with the fancy of sending me any clothes, let woollen stockings be one of the items; for it is often cold enough for them. Send nothing cotton or linen, for you might as aptly send a cargo of ice to Greenland.

7 Summer Vests of many divers colors.

18 Towels, enough to supply the whole family for any indefinite period. Some are of good capacities, dimensions, and in case of necessity & poverty would answer for pillow cases.

4 Linen round-about. Grass-cloth is used here for that purpose, and it most admirable.

23 Loose collars: a most bountifully abundant supply, as I perhaps do not wear one oftener than once in a month. But they will be good to tack on to my shirts in case of necessity. There are of imaginable widths and sizes, but those that Mrs. Lightbody fit me the best. Give my sincere and respectful thanks to her for those and all her other kind attentions, which I blame myself now much for not having done in person. Hoping that she will continue still to remember me, notwithstanding my short-comings in respect to her, give her this acknowledgement of my sincere & hearty thanks.

8 False Bosoms, which will probably last me many years.

8 Pocket Bandana Handkerchiefs

1 White Linen one.

9 Linen Pillow Cases which together with

9 pair of Linen Sheets was furnished in the New York, and most terrible cold things they were too on the voyage.

7 Bombazine and Linen Stocks.

2 Gowns, which I hope not to have any use for this long time, & which completes a descriptive list of all that was furnished me. For a voyage of the length of mine, these enough of all things, except handkerchief sheets, pillow cases, thin coats & pantaloons I had to wear a coat till, it was hardly fit, and moreover collecting so much dirt, rots the clothes before they can be washed. We had not a rag washed. And if you or any one else in Utica should put up more clothes for whomsoever comes out to the east, never give him a leather trunk or less old than he ever wear.

The more old clothes he has, the less will be he dirty with tar (which is almost unavoidable) & escape having them pulled to pieces in washing. Tar or paint you know is very difficult to wash out, and on board ship, either one or the other is constantly about deck. All the cold clothes that can be comfortably worn, should be taken.

Notes

¹ *The Life and Letters of Samuel Wells Williams, Missionary, Diplomat, Sinologue*, by his Son, Frederick Wells Williams. First published in 1889 by G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York. Reprinted edition published in 1972 by Scholarly Resources, Delaware. Translations in Chinese and in Japanese published respectively in 2004 and 2008.

² Williams Family Papers. Yale University Sterling Memorial Library, Manuscripts and Archives, MS no. 547. Three series with an addition.

³ Olyphant, Morrison

⁴ Jonathan D. Spence, *God's Chinese Son, The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom of Hong Xiuquan*, New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1996.

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- ⁵ De-min Tao, "Yoshida Shoin's Encounter with Commodore Perry: A Review of Cultural Interaction in the Days of Japan's Opening," in 「東アジア文化交渉研究」別冊第1号 (2008年3月), pp.63-79.
- ⁶ Gu Jun translated the SWW biography into Chinese. 『衛三畏生平及書信』(桂林: 廣西師範大學出版社, 2004年)
- ⁷ *Memoirs of the Life and Labours of Robert Morrison*, compiled by his widow, in two volumes. London: Longman, 1839.
- ⁸ Michael Holroyd, *Bernard Shaw*, in 2 volumes, published by Chatto & Windus, London, 1988.
- ⁹ Lu Xun, *Selected Works*, translated by Yang Xianyi and Gladys Yang, published by Foreign Language Press, Beijing, 2003. "The True Story of Ah Q," vol. 1, pp. 102-154. "There are many types of biography: official biographies, autobiographies, unauthorized biographies, legends, supplementary biographies, family histories, sketches..." p.102.
- ¹⁰ Ibid. p.102, "There are many types of biography: official biographies, autobiographies, unauthorized biographies, legends, supplementary biographies, family histories, sketches..."
- ¹¹ One simple case of his minor mistakes can be seen even in proof-reading. I found about 10 misprintings, like "March 10th" (for "June 10th", p.267), "refresment" (for "refreshment", p.409), "latter" (for "letter", 420).
- ¹² *The Glimpses of Canton, the Diary of Eliah C. Bridgman, 1834-1838*, published by Yale University School Library, Occasional Publications No.11, 1998.
- ¹³ a comma deleted: 'short time, have seen' changed to 'short time have seen'.
- ¹⁴ a comma deleted: 'idolatry, to call' changed to 'idolatry to call'.
- ¹⁵ a phrase cut: 'I have in their behalf'.
- ¹⁶ a comma deleted: 'city, which' changed to 'city which'.
- ¹⁷ a word: 'all' changed to 'a'.
- ¹⁸ a phrase replaced: 'New York, having a great extent of influence' changed to 'New York, which has its enormous influence'.
- ¹⁹ a comma and capitalization: 'the empire, a city' changed to "the Empire---a city".
- ²⁰ a word added: 'a deal of labor' changed to 'a deal of Christian labor'.
- ²¹ a sentence cut: 'Take a position at the gate of one of the streets, leading from thence to into the suburbs, and' shortened to start the next sentence 'The tide...'
- ²² a phrase added in order to paraphrase the preceding sentence: 'any one of the city gates here'.
- ²³ a comma deleted: 'pass across it, you must' changed to 'pass across it you must'.
- ²⁴ a quotation mark and a typhen added: 'sail down a ways' changed to "sail down a-ways".
- ²⁵ an expression: 'once to see it' changed to 'once in it'.
- ²⁶ a coordinate conjunction deleted: 'China. And to take' changed to 'China. To take'.
- ²⁷ an abbreviation: 'through' changed to 'thro'.
- ²⁸ a whole phrase cut: 'intellectual (compared with the rest of the east) people' changed to 'intellectual people'.
- ²⁹ a phrase replaced for a grammatical change: 'that man cannot be a warm Christian man' changed to 'is impossible to a warm Christian man.'
- ³⁰ a phrase cut: 'and every threshold'.
- ³¹ a expression replaced: 'in the streets' changed to 'abroad'.
- ³² a few minor changes in one sentence: 'deep commiseration? To large & combined effort?' changed to 'deep commiseration, to large and combined effort?'
- ³³ a comma deleted: 'work upon, where' changed to 'work upon where'.
- ³⁴ a comma deleted: 'By this I mean, where' changed to 'By this I mean where'.
- ³⁵ Not Frederick's but my correction.
- ³⁶ The three underlined sentences are deleted.